

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00429 101057Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----104880 101059Z /13
O 101140Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9739

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0429

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, IT, VT
SUBJECT: MORE VATICAN VIEWS ON CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE

REF: ROME 0237

1. WE HAD ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY JANUARY 9 TO FOLLOW UP WITH VATICAN SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY OF STATE CAPRIO THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REFTEL REGARDING THE VATICAN'S POSITION IN CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE.

2. CAPRIO SAID THAT HE HAD READ THAT AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAD BEEN CALLED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS AND HE THOUGHT THIS FACT AND THE TREATMENT GIVEN IN THE ITALIAN PRESS TO THE TRIP AND TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT IN PARIS ARE CREATING PROPER STIMULUS FOR ITALIANS TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE.

3. CAPRIO ALSO SAID THAT VATICAN HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING TO ENCOURAGE DC TO RESIST DEMANDS FOR PCI ENTRY IN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. VATICAN, HE EMPHASIZED, HAS MADE KNOWN TO THE DC LEADERS, BOTH ITS OWN AND THE ITALIAN CHURCH'S OPPOSITION TO ANY MODIFICATION OF PRESENT
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GOVERNING FORMULA AND HAD ENCOURAGED DC TO TRY TO RESOLVE CRISIS THROUGH RENEGOTIATION OF PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD.

4. VATICAN ORGAN L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO IN ITS DAILY POLITICAL ANALYSIS CONTINUES TO HIGHLIGHT (1) GROWING STRENGTH OF SENTIMENT WITHIN DC AGAINST THE "HYPOTHESIS OF A MAJORITY WITH THE PCI," (2) IMPOSSIBILITY OF DC TO "ACCEPT POLITICAL SOLUTIONS WHICH ARE

CONTRARY TO ITS ELECTORAL MANDATE" AND (3) ITS ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR THE DC TO CONCENTRATE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON "THE UP-
DATING OF THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD." HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME00429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0621
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780180/aaaacpvx.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2eaaeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 ROME 237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3800923
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE VATICAN VIEWS ON CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE
TAGS: PGOV, IT, VT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2eaaeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014